

- Instructions: - • All questions are compulsory.
• Marks are indicated in front of each question.

Section-A (Reading)

- Q.1 Read the following passage and answer the questions on the basis of comprehension of the passage. 1×10=10

Migration is a natural process, whereby different birds fly over distances of hundreds to thousands of kilometres in order to find the best ecological conditions and habitats for feeding, breeding and raising their young. For instance, when the conditions in the breeding grounds become very difficult due to low temperatures migratory birds fly to regions where conditions are better. There are many different migration patterns. Most birds migrate from northern breeding areas in the summer, to southern wintering grounds. However, some birds breed in the far south of Africa, and migrate to northern wintering grounds, or horizontally, to enjoy the milder coastal climates in winter. Other birds migrate in terms of altitude, moving higher up a mountain in summer, and wintering on the lowlands.

Migratory birds have the perfect morphology and physiology to fly fast and over long distances. However, they often experience an exhausting journey during which they go to their limits. The Red Knot e.g., a 24 cm long wader with a weight of around 220 g, breeds in Siberia and overwinters on the African West coast, some of its species even going down to South Africa. During its migration it loses nearly half of its body weight. Migratory birds therefore rarely fly to their destination non-stop but interrupt their journey frequently to rest and feed, or to sit out a spell of bad weather. How migrating birds exactly find their flyways is not fully understood. Newest experiments indicate that they are orientating along the Earth's magnetic field with special light receptors in their eyes.

Humans have always been fascinated and inspired by the phenomenon of bird migration. In ancient Greece the bird of Athena represented the renewal of life. A dove, with an olive branch in its beak, returned to Noah's ark to announce the end of the deadly flood. The dove remained a symbol of peace and hope. During the era of the Pharos in Egypt, the falcon had protective powers and was linked to royalty. For the Native Americans birds had different meanings, always positive and linked to the concepts of unity, freedom, community, safe return, love and celebration of life.

In dreams birds embody fantasy, ideas and thoughts. The image of a flying bird is immediately connected with lightness and freedom and hence the expression "to be free as a bird". Many people associate flocks of migrating birds in the typical V-like alignment with the change of season, but also with perfection, beauty and harmony. Until the 18th century people believed that swallows sank in mires at the beginning of autumn and appeared again as amphibians in the following spring. And still today some parents mark their houses with painted storks to indicate that a new baby has been born. In almost all cultures, for centuries flocks of birds have announced the arrival of spring, and the yearly rebirth of nature associated with it. The social acceptance of birds as messengers of life was accompanied by the knowledge that migration had indeed an important role to play in ecosystem functioning.

- Question:**
- (i) In the passage, what is the synonym for "associated"?
(a) Isolated (b) Disconnected (c) Connected (d) Dissociated
 - (ii) What does "ecosystem functioning" refer to in the passage?
(a) How birds migrate within ecosystems
(b) The preservation of historical ecosystems
(c) The way ecosystems operate and maintain balance
(d) The impact of bird migration on individual species
 - (iii) What does the term "omens" mean in the context of the passage?
(a) Signs or events believed to predict the future
(b) Birds with beautiful feathers
(c) Rituals related to bird migration
(d) Expressions of joy and celebration
 - (iv) What symbolic meanings have been associated with birds in different cultures?
(a) Danger and warning
(b) Darkness and mystery
(c) Unity, freedom, peace, and hope
(d) Isolation and sadness
 - (v) In ancient Greece, which bird of Athena represented the renewal of life?
(a) Dove (b) Falcon (c) Swallow (d) Stork
 - (vi) What does the expression "to be free as a bird" imply?
(a) Being heavy and burdened
(b) Being confined and restricted
(c) Having wings and flying abilities
(d) Being trapped and helpless
 - (vii) How were swallows perceived in the 18th century during autumn?
(a) They were believed to migrate to warmer regions.
(b) They were thought to transform into amphibians.
(c) They were believed to sink in mires.
(d) They were considered to hibernate.
 - (viii) What purpose did marking houses with painted storks serve?
(a) Indicating that the house is available for sale
(b) Welcoming guests to the house
(c) Celebrating a wedding ceremony
(d) Announcing the birth of a new baby
 - (ix) In various cultures, what is the significance of flocks of birds during spring?
(a) They symbolize the onset of a harsh winter.
(b) They signify the end of migration patterns.
(c) They announce the arrival of spring and nature's rebirth.
(d) They represent a time of mourning and sorrow.
 - (x) How have migrating birds been perceived as messengers of life?
(a) They were associated with doom and destruction.

- arrival.
- (b) They were considered omens of bad luck.
 - (c) They were believed to bring news of new births and spring's arrival.
 - (d) They were linked to supernatural powers and magic.
- (xi) What role does bird migration play in ecosystem functioning?
- (a) It has no significant impact on ecosystems.
 - (b) It disrupts natural balance in ecosystems.
 - (c) It contributes to the diversity and balance of ecosystems.
 - (d) It leads to the decline of other species in ecosystems.

Q.2 Read the following passage and make notes on the basis of your comprehension of the passage. Give a suitable title. 4

This isn't a mountain region of mere subjective beauty. Nor one, which claims its greatness, based on just an overwhelming opinion of a large majority. For Sikkim is a treasure that few know about. However, the facts of its remarkable geography bear enough testimony to pitch Sikkim in a slot that no other mountain region, anywhere in the world, could duplicate or rival. What Everest is to peaks, Sikkim is to the mountains. Tragically, a region so wild and exotic and with such geographic and climatic extremes, with its amazing wilds and not its unremarkable hill stations, ensure its accessibility to the adventurous only.

Just delve on these facts a bit. From the plains, in a mere 80 km as the crow flies, the altitude reaches 28,168 feet at the very top of Kanchenjunga, the third highest peak in the world. Such a sharp elevation is unrivalled anywhere else and is the first geographical claim of Sikkim.

The second is an offshoot of the first. Nowhere else do so many 7,000 metre plus peaks crowd up in such a confined space. And the third is really a consequence of the first and the second with the sharp gradation, creating the most variegated flora and fauna possible anywhere in the mountains. The fourth uniqueness is also a consequence of the first and the second and lies in the extremes of the climate which ranges from the tropical to the typical arctic type. And the fifth claim is its thin permanent population and relatively fewer travellers by virtue of its remote far-eastern Himalayan location <https://www.mpboardonline.com>

Section-B (Writing)

Q.3 You are the member of school 'Echo Club'. Write a notice informing the students about the tree plantation drive in your school. 4

OR

Design a poster to make people aware about the need for Regular Exercise. You may use slogans.

Q.4 Write an application to your principal to give you permission to go on a tour with your class teacher and the students of class 11. You are Abhishek Sharma. 4

OR

You are Anil Verma, residing at 20, Shivaji Nagar, Sagar. Write a letter to your friend Dinesh inviting him to spend summer vacation in your village.

- Q.5 Write an article on any one of the following topics in about 120 words. 4**
1. Importance of Protecting Trees
 2. Benefits of Modern Technology
 3. Importance of Games and Sports

OR

Write a report giving the detailed account of the 'Annual Sports Day' held in your school.

Section- C (Grammar)

- Q.6 Fill in the blanks- (Any five) 1×5=5**
1. They are watching — movie. (a/an/the)
 2. The lame boy tried to climb up the staircase without — help. (any/some/few)
 3. They — to a restaurant yesterday. (go/went/gone)
 4. Do you know — has happened? (that/ what/why)
 5. The weather was cold but there was — wind. (any/no/none)
 6. The post office is — the street from the grocery store. (across/by/among)
 7. If she — a bird, she would fly. (are/was/were)
- Q.7 Do as directed- (Any five) 1×5=5**
1. We did it. (Change into negative)
 2. The/is /Himalaya/highest/the/world/mountain/of/the.
(Rearrange the words to make a meaningful sentence)
 3. He is sleeping for three hours. (Correct the sentence)
 4. He is very poor. He cannot pay his fees. (Combine using 'so—that')
 5. They are playing Football. (Change the voice)
 6. Raja cried for milk. (Change into present indefinite)

Section-D (Textbooks)

- Q.8 Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below. 5**

We lifted her off the bed and, as is customary, laid her on the ground and covered her with a red shroud. After a few hours of mourning, we left her alone to make arrangements for her funeral. In the evening we went to her room with a crude stretcher to take her to be cremated. The sun was setting and had lit her room and verandah with a blaze of golden light. We stopped half-way in the courtyard. All over the verandah and in her room right up to where she lay dead and stiff wrapped in the red shroud, thousands of sparrows sat scattered on the floor. There was no chirruping. We felt sorry for the birds and my mother fetched some bread for them. She broke it into little crumbs, the way my grandmother used to, and threw it to them. The sparrows took no notice of the bread. When we carried my grandmother's corpse off, they flew away quietly. Next morning the sweeper swept the bread crumbs into the dustbin.

Questions:

- i) Who was covered with a red shroud?
(a) the grandfather (b) the grand mother
(c) the mother (d) the poet's sister
- ii) Why did the birds not eat the breadcrumbs?
(a) because they were not hungry
(b) because they were mourning
(c) because they wanted to eat something else

- (d) because they had no time to eat
- iii) Which word in the passage means 'a dead body'?
- (a) shroud (b) blaze (c) corpse (d) funeral
- iv) Who is the author of the above passage?
- (a) Nick Middleton (b) Khushwant Singh
(c) A. R. Williams (d) Shirley Toulson
- v) The birds —
- (a) ate the bread crumbs
(b) did not eat bread crumbs
(c) swept the bread crumbs into the dustbin
(d) chirruped loudly

Q.9(A) Read the following extract from the poem and answer the questions given below-

3

And who art thou? said I to the soft falling shower,
Which, strange to tell, gave me an answer, as here translated:
I am the poem of Earth, said the voice of rain,
Eternal I rise impalpable out of the land and the bottomless sea,
Upward to heaven, whence vaguely form'd, altogether changed, and yet the same.

- Questions: i) The poem of earth is-
- (a) Tree (b) River (c) Rain (d) Flower
- ii) What is the meaning of impalpable?
- (a) Something that cannot be eaten
(b) Something that cannot be digested
(c) Something that cannot be smelled
(d) something that cannot be touched
- iii) Which poem these lines have been taken from?
- (a) The voice of the Rain (b) A photograph
(c) The laburnum top (d) Father to son

Q.9(B) Read the following passage and answer the questions given below - 4

And one day I noticed that I was still curious about all the possessions that must still be at that address. I wanted to see them, touch, remember. After my first visit in vain to Mrs. Dorling's house I decided to try a second time. Now a girl of about fifteen opened the door to me. I asked if her mother was at home. 'No' she said, 'My mother 's doing an errand.' 'No matter,' I said, 'I'll wait for her.'

- Ques: (i) Who is the narrator trying to visit in the story?
- a) Mrs. Dorling b) The girl's mother
c) A friend d) The narrator's own home
- (ii) How old is the girl who answers the door during the narrator's second visit?
- a) About 10 years old
b) About 15 years old
c) About 20 years old
d) The girl's age is not mentioned in the passage.

- (iii) Why does the narrator decide to wait for Mrs. Dorling even though she's not at home?
- The narrator wants to ask for directions.
 - The narrator is curious about the possessions at the address.
 - The narrator needs to deliver a message to Mrs. Dorling.
 - The narrator wants to offer help with an errand.
- (iv) What are the possessions the author is referring to?
- things at the house of her mother
 - things owned by herself
 - things taken away by Mrs. Dorling
 - things stolen from her

Q.10 Answer the following questions from Hornbill in about 30 words- (any 5) 10

- When was the link of the friendship between the author and his grandmother snapped?
- Which Island did they find nearby using their charts?
- Who was Tutankhamun.?
- Who were other two crew men that accompanied the journey?
- What did grandmother used to feed village dogs and why?
- What name did Amenhotep IV change to?

Q.11 Answer the following questions from poetry in about 30 words- (any 3) 6

- Who are the persons in the photograph? (The Photograph)
- Why the laburnum tree become yellow in the month of September? (The Laburnum Top)
- What will happen if it doesn't rain? (The Voice of Rain)
- What was compared with Goldfinch movement? (The Laburnum Top)

Q.12 Answer the following questions from Snapshots in about 30 words- (any 3)

- What sort of understanding did Mourad have with the horse?
- Why did the boys return the white horse to its owner?
- Why had the author come to visit Mrs. Dorling?
- When did the narrator first learn about the existence of Mrs Dorling?

Q.13 Answer the following questions in about 75 words-(any 2) 6

- Describe the author's grandmother. (The Portrait of a Lady)
- Under the adverse conditions, children had exhibited exemplary courage. Please elaborate the statement (We are not afraid to die)
- Write a short note in 75 words about King Tut. (Discovering Tut)

Q.14 Write the central idea of the poem 'A Photograph.'

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Or

What is the central idea of the poem, The Voice of the Rain?

Q.15 'The Address' is a story of human predicament that follows war. Comment.

Or

The story 'The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse' begins in a mood of nostalgia. Can you narrate some incident from your childhood that might make an interesting story?

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